



GRAIN TRANSPORTATION REPORT

Agricultural Marketing Service
United States Department of Agriculture

June 1, 1998



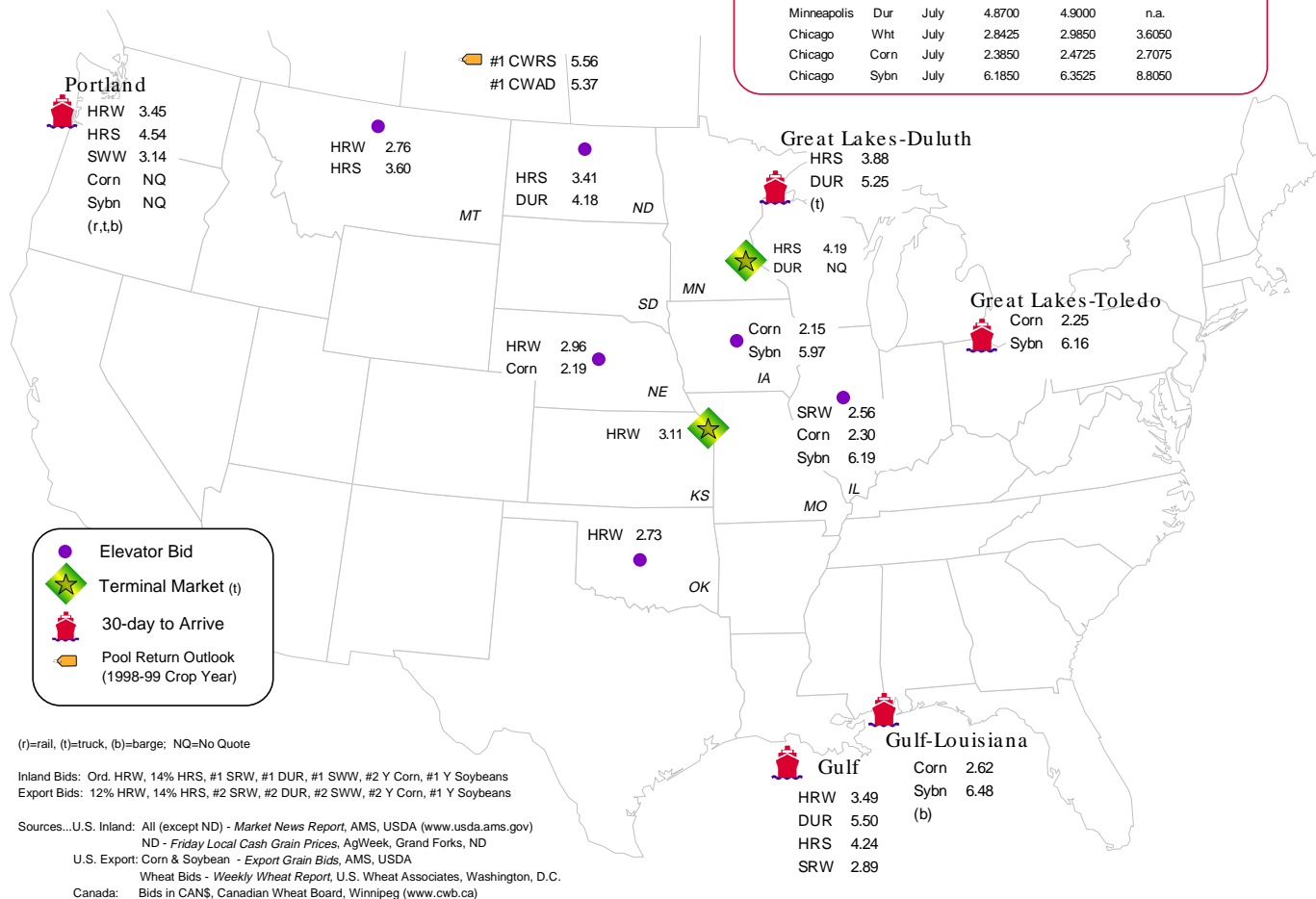
Upcoming Events...

June 1-3	Corn Utilization & Technology Conference	St. Louis, MO	202-331-1634
June 7-11	American Feed Industry Assn. Feed Ingredient Institute	Rosemont, IL	703-524-0810
June 11-14	American Feed Industry Assn. AgroMexico Show	Guadalajara, Mexico	703-524-0810
June 16-18	International Grains Council Grains Conference '98	London, England	44(0)171-513-1122 igc-fac@igc.org.uk
June 21-23	81 st Annual Pacific Northwest Grain & Feed Assn. Convention	Sun Valley, ID	Terri Lange pngfa@teleport.com
June 21-25	115 th Annual American Seed Trade Assn. (ASTA) Convention	Toronto, Ontario	202-638-3171 (phone) 202- 638-3171 (fax)
June 28-July 2	Western Dredging Associations' World Dredging Congress	Las Vegas, NV	360-750-0209 (phone) 360-750-1445 (fax) weda@juno.com
July 8	Transportation Research Forum Forum on Rail Regulation	Washington, DC	Jack Ventura 202-565-1548
July 12-14	69 th Annual Canadian Feed Industry Assn. Meeting & Convention	Ottawa, Ontario	cfia@cfia-aciaa.ca www.cfia-aciaa.ca
July 19-22	38 th Annual U. S. Feed Grains Council Board of Directors Mtg.	Minneapolis, MN	202-789-0789
Sept. 23-26	National Waterways Conference Annual Meeting	New Orleans, LA	goudied@waterways.org
Oct. 4-6	American Short Line Railroad Assn. Annual Meeting	Atlanta, GA	404-521-0000
Oct. 5-9	American Assn. Of Port Authorities 87 th Annual Convention	Houston, TX	www.aapa-ports.org/ convention.html
Oct. 29-31	Transportation Research Forum	Philadelphia, PA	215-884-7500 www.utexas.edu/dept/ctr/trf

This report is prepared by Karl Hacker and Karla Martin, Agricultural Economists, Transportation & Marketing, Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA (202) 690-1304. Report design by Kimberly Vachal, Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute, North Dakota State University. You can retrieve this document from our Automatic Fax System by using the handset on your fax machine and dialing (202) 690-1707. This report can be found on the Internet at www.usda.gov/ams/tmd/grain.htm. E-mail comments to Nick_Marathon@USDA.gov.

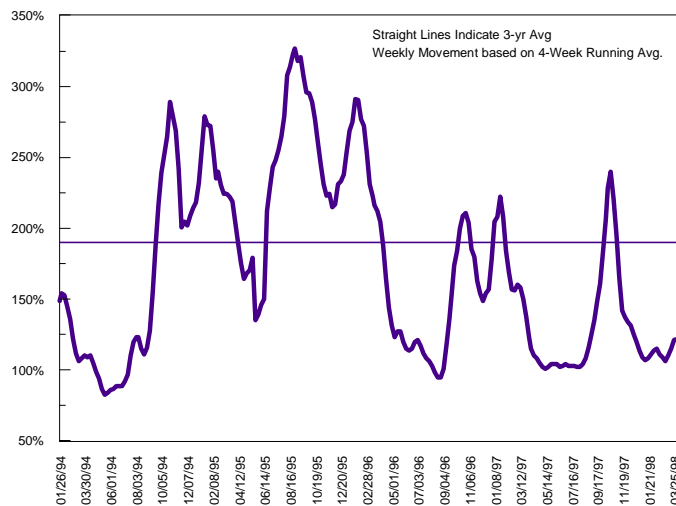
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Grain Bid Summary

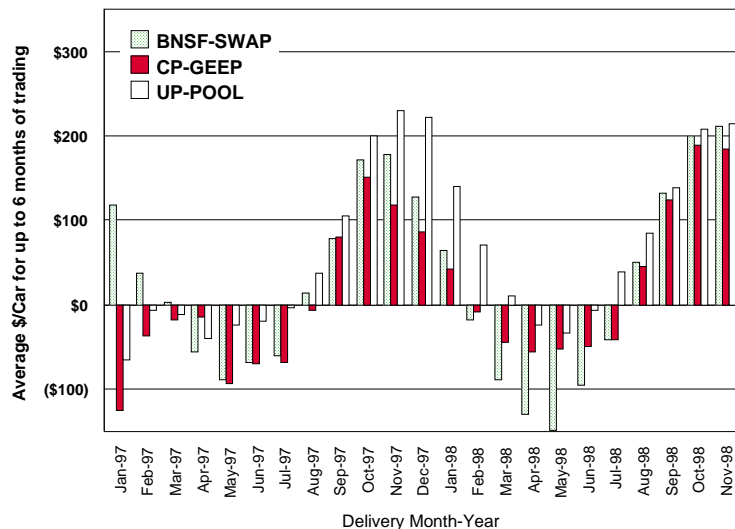


Spot Barge Rate - Illinois River

Index - Percent of Tariff Rate



Secondary Rail Market Bids

See the Grain Trax page at www.ugpti.org for more graphs of rail premiums.

Rail Car 'Auction' Offerings				
Delivery for:	Jul-98		Sep-98	
	<u>Offered</u>	<u>% Sold</u>	<u>Offered</u>	<u>% Sold</u>
BNSF-COT	no offer	no offer		
UP-GCAS	5,400	41%	5,400	37%
Source: Transportation & Marketing /AMS/USDA; www.bnsf.com; www.uprr.com				

Secondary Rail Car Market

Average Premium/Discount to Tariff, \$/Car - Last Week

	Delivery Period			
	Jun-98	Jul-98	Aug-98	Sep-98
BNSF-COT	\$(33)	\$18	\$81	\$186
CP-GEEP	\$(15)	\$(9)	\$65	\$144
UP-Pool	\$34	\$105	\$121	\$158

Source: T&M/AMS/USDA. Data from Atwood/ConAgra., Harvest States Co-op, James B. Joiner Co., Tradewest Brokerage Co.;

GF=Guaranteed Freight, GEEP=Guaranteed Eqpt. Exchange, Pool=Guaranteed Pool

note... bids listed are market INDICATORS only & are NOT guaranteed prices, missing value=No Bid Quoted

Railroad Car 'Auction' Results

Average Premium/Discount to Tariff, \$/Car - Last Auction

Delivery for:	Jul-98	Sep-98	Oct-98
COT/N. Grain	\$18	\$220	\$259
COT/S. Grain	\$41	\$209	no offer
GCAS/Region 2	\$18	\$29	no offer
GCAS/Region 4	\$71	\$121	no offer

Source: T&M/AMS USDA. Data from www.bnsf.com, www.uprr.com.
(COT=Certificate of Transportation; GCAS=Grain Car Allocation System)

Southbound Barge Freight Nominal Values*

Index=Percent of Tariff, Based on 1976 Tariff Benchmark Rate

Week ended	River/Region	Contract Period	Rate
5/29/98	Upper Miss.	July	150
		September	190
		October	245
	Mid Miss.	twk	120
		September	170
		October	215
	Illinois River	twk	120
		October	210
	Ohio River	twk	120

*Summary Of Daily Barge Trades Reported To St. Louis Merchants Exchange.

twk=this week

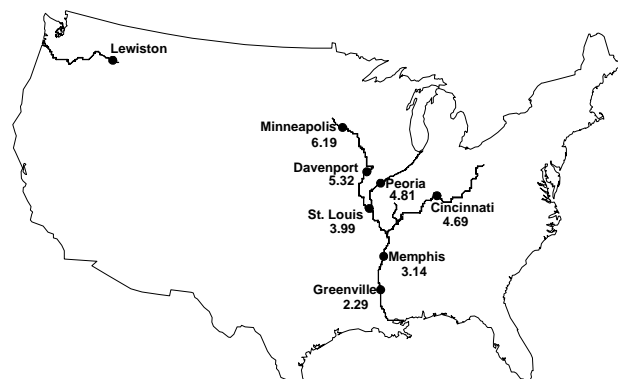
nwk=next week

Southbound Barge Freight Spot Rates

	5/29/98	5/20/98	June '98	August '98
Twin Cities	155	145	150	168
Mid-Mississippi	128	123	125	138
Illinois River	120	113	118	130
St. Louis-Cairo	98	96	98	110
Lower Ohio	100	98	105	130
Cairo-Memphis	95	93	100	110

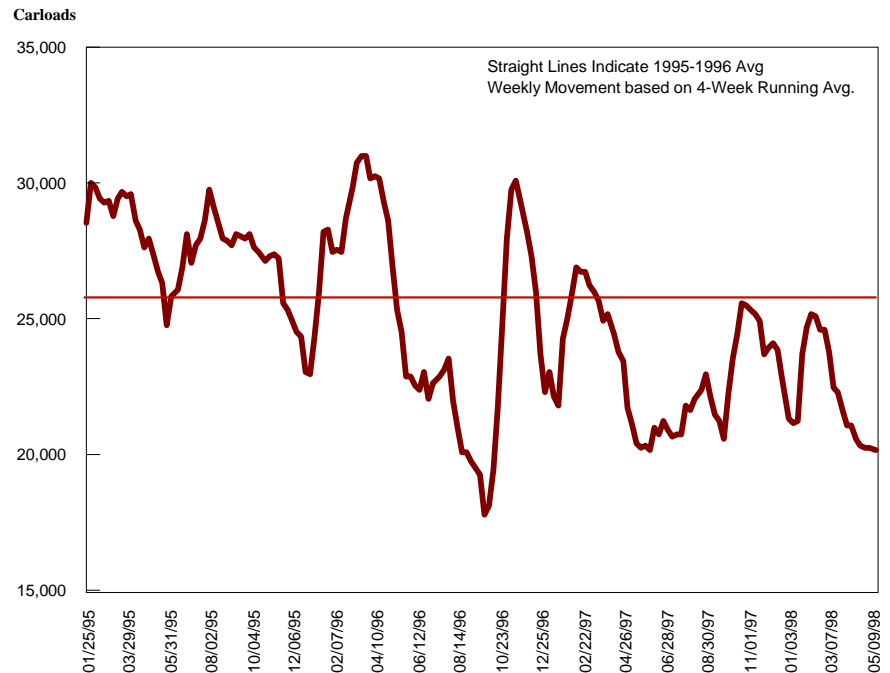
Source: Transportation & Marketing /AMS/USDA
nq- no quote

Barge Benchmark Tariff Rates Est. 1976 - 'Tariff No. 7'



Grain Car Loadings for Class I Railroads

Class I Railroad Grain Car Loadings	
Week Ending:	Carloads
5/9/98	19,183
5/16/98	20,348
5/23/98	21,229
Year to Date - 1998	447,198
Year to Date - 1997	483,960
Total 1997	1,199,995
Total 1996	1,235,123
Source: American Association of Railroads	



Class I Rail Carrier Grain Car Bulletin

Carloads

	Conrail	CSXT	East		West			Canada	
			IC	NS	BNSF	KCS	UP	CN	CP
05/23/98	600	2,289	1,711	2,543	8,038	483	5,565	2,089	3,356
This Week Last Year	521	2,245	1,495	2,094	5,702	803	6,954	3,893	4,258
1998 YTD	13,892	48,647	27,835	51,325	165,499	13,211	126,789	52,010	84,743
1997 YTD	10,363	48,514	32,944	49,411	162,076	13,843	163,376	58,670	90,343
1996 Total	31,733	111,509	48,695	131,568	432,687	30,009	439,865	129,714	181,387
1995 Total	37,851	133,755	61,612	139,043	410,274	34,393	447,786		

Source: American Association of Railroads

Tariff Rail Rates for Unit Train Shipments

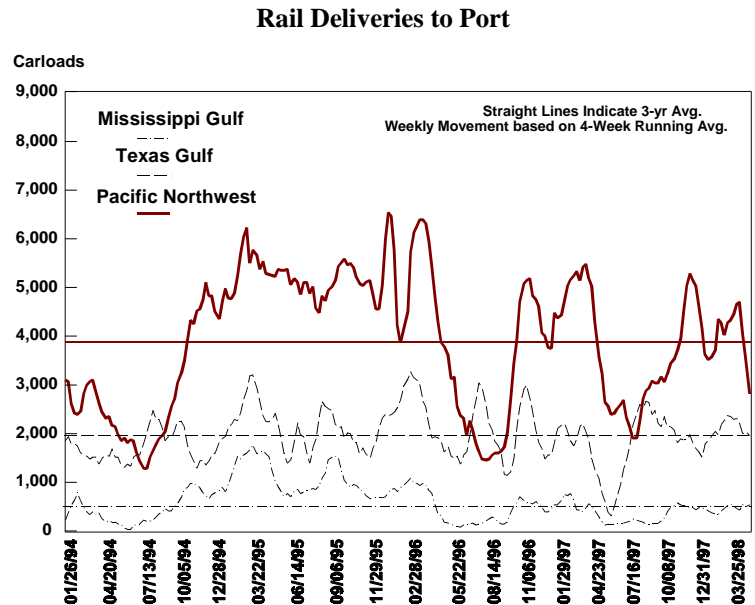
May 1998

Date Effective	Tariff Item	Commodity	Origin	Destination	Rate Per Car	Rate Per MT	Rate/Per Bushel*
05/01/98	45560	Wheat	Minneapolis, MN	Houston, TX	\$2,050	\$18.60	\$0.62
06/01/98	43521	Wheat	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$4,027	\$36.54	\$1.21
05/01/98	46540	Wheat	Kansas City, MO	Houston, TX	\$1,450	\$13.16	\$0.44
05/01/98	43586	Wheat	Kansas City, MO	Portland, OR	\$3,812	\$34.59	\$1.14
05/01/98	43581	Wheat	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$3,505	\$31.81	\$1.05
05/01/98	31040	Corn	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$2,865	\$22.87	\$0.80
05/01/98	33111	Corn	Kansas City, MO	Houston, TX	\$1,600	\$12.77	\$0.45
05/01/98	31035	Corn	Kansas City, MO	Portland, OR	\$2,600	\$20.75	\$0.73
05/01/98	31040	Corn	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$2,485	\$19.83	\$0.70
05/01/98	61180	Soybean	Minneapolis, MN	Portland, OR	\$3,080	\$27.95	\$0.92
05/01/98	61180	Soybean	Omaha, NE	Portland, OR	\$2,780	\$25.23	\$0.83

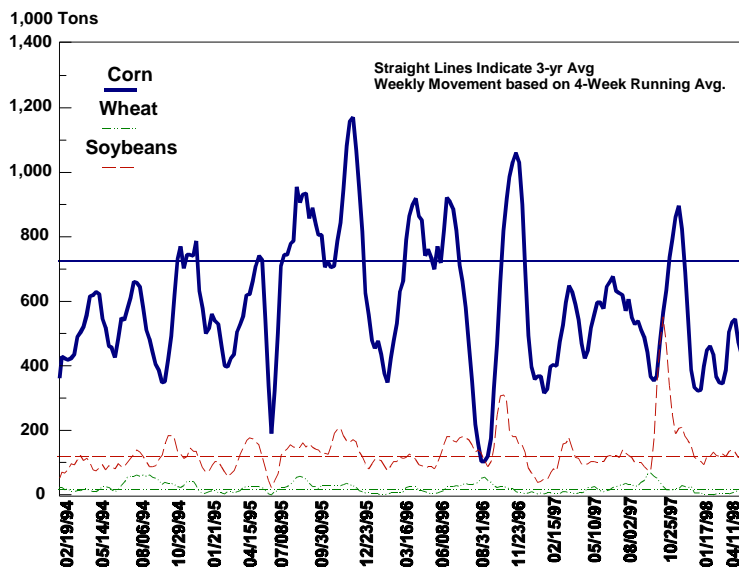
Source: www.bnsf.com

Approximate load per car = 100 tons: Corn 56 lbs/bu, Wheat & Soybeans 60 lbs/bu

Rail Deliveries to Port				
Carloads				
	Mississippi Gulf	Texas Gulf	Pacific Northwest	Atlantic & East Gulf
Week Ending:				
05/06/98	135	2,092	2,193	31
05/13/98	179	1,544	1,974	255
05/20/98	63	1,878	2,193	257
YTD 1998	8,277	39,907	65,419	5,752
YTD 1997	9,535	32,483	89,285	2,932
Total 1997	20,152	93,265	195,953	9,147
Total 1996	25,899	113,804	199,709	11,304
Source: Transportation & Marketing/AMS/USDA				



Barge Movements - Locks 27

**Barge Grain Movements**

for week ending 05/23/98

	Corn	Wht	Sybn	Total
	1,000 Tons			
Mississippi River				
Rock Island, IL (L15)	308	20	48	381
Winfield, MO (L25)	476	25	76	582
Alton, IL (L26)	745	26	112	889
Granite City, IL (L27)	729	38	121	903
Illinois River (L8)	178	2	26	207
Ohio (L52)	12	0	0	23
Arkansas (L1)	0	11	1	13
1998 YTD	9,787	707	3,286	15,294
1997 YTD	10,750	575	2,914	15,979
Total 1997	29,685	2,689	9,584	45,315
Total 1996	34,210	2,348	8,297	48,963

Miss YTD: Calendar year totals include Miss/27, Ohio/52 and Ark/1.

Source: U.S. Army Corp of Engineers

U.S. Export Balances* (1,000 Metric Tons)

	<i>HRW</i>	<i>SRW</i>	<i>HRS</i>	<u>Wheat</u> <i>SWW</i>	<i>DUR</i>	<i>All</i>	<u>Corn</u>	<u>Soybean</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Unshipped Exports-Crop Year</u>									
05/21/98	1,230	306	1,196	399	171	3,303	6,067	1,779	11,149
This Week Year Ago	1,429	750	959	663	291	4,092	8,078	3,640	15,810
<u>Cumulative Exports-Crop Year</u>									
97/98 YTD	9,581	4,691	6,040	5,378	1,212	26,901	26,248	22,130	75,279
96/97 YTD	7,299	3,613	7,734	5,913	963	25,523	34,471	21,686	81,680
95/96 Total	9,867	6,792	8,918	6,443	897	32,917	55,769	23,550	112,236
94/95 Total	10,157	5,453	7,686	5,837	893	30,026	54,742	23,410	108,178

Source: Foreign Agricultural Service YTD-Year-to-Date (fas.usda.gov) Crop Year: Wheat=5/31-6/01, Corn & Soybeans=9/01-8/31

Select U.S. Port Regions - Grain Inspections for Export - 1,000 Metric Tons

	<u>Pacific Region</u>			<u>Mississippi Gulf</u>			<u>Texas Gulf</u>		
	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Corn</i>	<i>Soybean</i>	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Corn</i>	<i>Soybean</i>	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Corn</i>	<i>Soybean</i>
05/28/98	149	81	28	40	402	102	156	0	0
1998 YTD **	4,038	2,871	391	2,244	10,609	6,898	2,488	174	494
1997 YTD **	4,817	5,196	882	1,497	12,358	8,067	1,029	916	422
% of Last Year	84%	55%	44%	150%	86%	86%	242%	19%	117%
1997 Total	11,156	9,728	1,764	6,349	28,183	18,658	5,106	1,001	1,014

Source: Federal Grain Inspection Service *Year Ago-This Week a Year Ago ** YTD-Year-to-Date

Select Canadian Ports - Export Inspections

1,000 Metric Tons, Crop Year

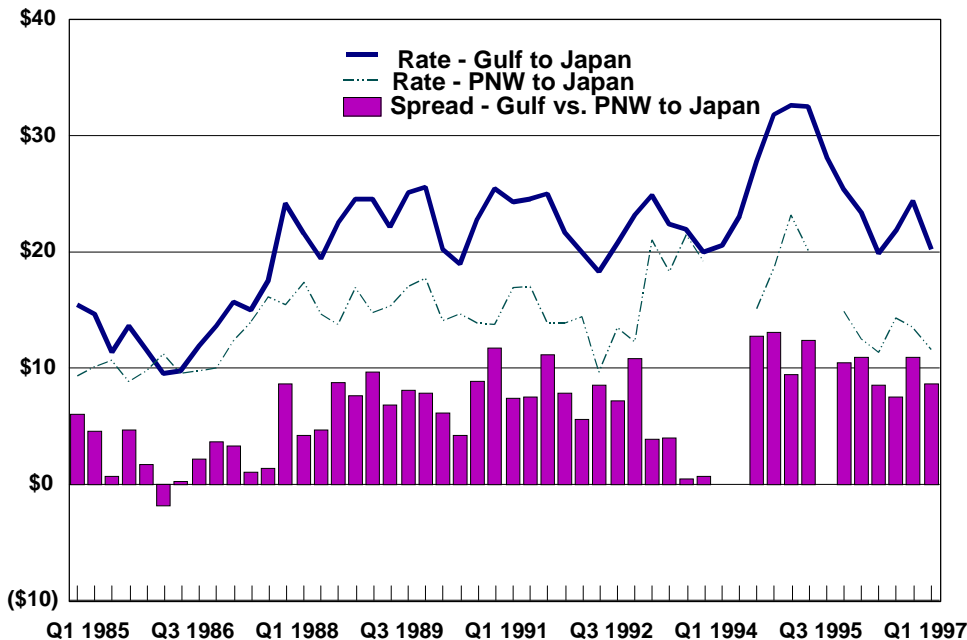
	<u>Wheat</u>	<u>Durum</u>	<u>Barley</u>
Week Ended: 05/28/98			
Vancouver	5,602	990	957
Prince Rupert	3,494	30	371
Prairie Direct	937	332	388
Thunder Bay	421	295	284
St. Lawrence	3,280	1,754	8
1997 YTD Exports	13,734	3,402	2,008
1996 YTD Exports	11,155	3,185	1,790
% of Last Year	123%	107%	112%

Source: Canadian Grains Commission *Year Ago-This Week a Year Ago ** YTD-Year-to-Date Crop Year 8/1-7/31



Port Region Ocean Grain Vessels									
	Gulf			Pacific Northwest			Vancouver, B.C.		
	<u>In Port</u>	<u>Loaded 7-Days</u>	<u>Due Next 10-Days</u>	<u>In Port</u>	<u>Loaded 7-Days</u>	<u>Due Next 10-Days</u>	<u>In Port</u>	<u>Loaded 7-Days</u>	<u>Due Next 10-Days</u>
05/21/98	26	45	40	10			7	6	3
05/28/98	6	6	9	7			9	12	0
1996 Range	(17..46)	(38..61)	(27..88)						
1995 Range	(11..67)	(22..64)	(31..90)						
1997 Avg	37	46	62						
1996 Avg	31	45	60						
1995 Avg	31	46	61						
Source: Transportation & Marketing /AMS/ USDA									

US\$/Metric Ton



Quarterly Ocean Freight Rates

Quarterly Ocean Freight Rates

Weighted Average Rates & Vessel Size, U.S. Dollars/Metric Ton - Basis

	1998 1 st Qtr	1997 1 st Qtr	% Change		1998 1 st Qtr	1997 1 st Qtr	% Change
Gulf to				Pacific NW to			
Japan	\$18.24	\$25.29	-28%	Japan	\$10.08	\$15.08	-33%
Mexico	\$12.15	\$17.99	-32%	Red Sea/ Arabian Sea		\$20.17	
Venezuela	\$11.13	\$16.73	-33%				
N. Europe	\$9.85	\$12.60	-22%	Argentina to			
N. Africa	\$14.65	\$18.84	-22%	N. Europe	\$12.32	\$17.98	-31%
				Japan	\$20.93	\$33.64	-38%

Source: Transportation & Marketing/AMS/USDA

Ocean Freight Rates

Export Region	Import Region	Grain	Month	Volume Loaded (Tons)	Freight Rate (\$/Ton)
Gulf	Holland	Grains	June	75,000	\$8.00
Gulf	Taiwan	Heavy Grains	May/June	30,000-51,000	\$15.75-19.50
Gulf	Japan	Heavy Grains	June/August	37,000-54,000	\$15.50-17.25
Paranagua	Rotterdam	Heavy Grains	June	55,000	\$8.90
Rio Grande	Vera Cruz	Heavy Grains	June	25,000	\$17.75
River Plate	Kaohsiung (Taiwan)	Heavy Grains	June	57,000	\$16.00
River Plate	WC Mexico	Heavy Grains	May/June	30,000	\$19.00
River Plate	Lisbon	Heavy Grains	June	31,000	\$14.00
River Plate	Libya	Wheat	May	25,000	\$25.50
River Plate	Iran	Heavy Grains & Wheat	Prompt	50,000	\$17.70-18.25

Source: Maritime Research Inc.